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Page 2

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Representative Finance Example For Ford B-Max Zetec 5dr Hatchback 1.4 90PS: Cash Price: £12,990.52, Deposit: £1,000.00, Deposit Allowance: £750.00, Total amount of credit: £11,240.52, Purchase fee: £10.00, Credit Facility fee: £10.00, Total amount payable: £14,852.00, 36 Monthly payments of: £199.00, Final payment: £5,918.00, Duration of agreement: 37 months, Representative APR: 7.2%. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Details correct at time of going to print. Subject to availability. Contact us for terms and conditions. 0844 numbers charged at local rate.

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SEAT.CO.UK

Official fuel consumption for the new SEAT Leon 5dr range in mpg (litres per 100km): urban 36.7 (7.7) – 61.4 (4.6); extra-urban 57.6 (4.9) – 85.6 (3.3); combined 47.9 (5.9) – 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions 137 – 87g/km.

Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown is the New SEAT Leon 5dr SE 1.2 TSI 105PS at £16,970, with optional white paint at £175 RRP, with optional electric sunroof at £695 RRP, 17" Dynamic alloy wheels at £375 RRP and full LED headlights at £995 RRP. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Retail Sales only. ‡Payable with first payment. ²Payable with optional final payment. †4.4p per mile excess mileage charges apply. ††£1,000 deposit contribution is available to customers who purchase their car with Solutions personal contract plan. Terms and conditions apply. Finance examples include technology pack. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to vehicle availability. Subject to status. Available to over 18s in the UK from participating dealers only. SEAT Finance, Freepost SEAT Finance. Subject to each model specification and cost option fitment. Pricing and finance valid from 1st January to 31st March 2014. *Offer available on SE and FR models when ordered before 31st March 2014 from participating dealers only. £1,915 RRP refers to optional specification if priced individually. Finance providers may pay us for introducing you to them.

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Fuel consumption figures for Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO_2 emissions: 129g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,495 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £6,158.38, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. **It is being offered for £500 including VAT** (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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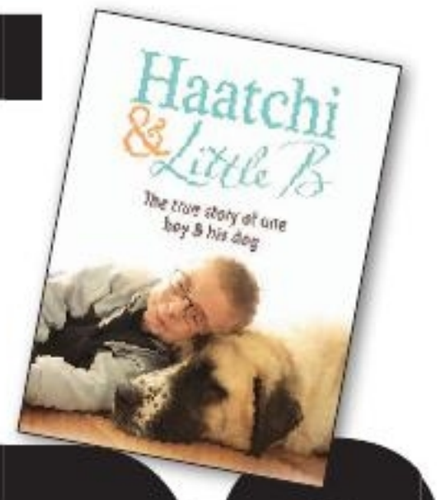
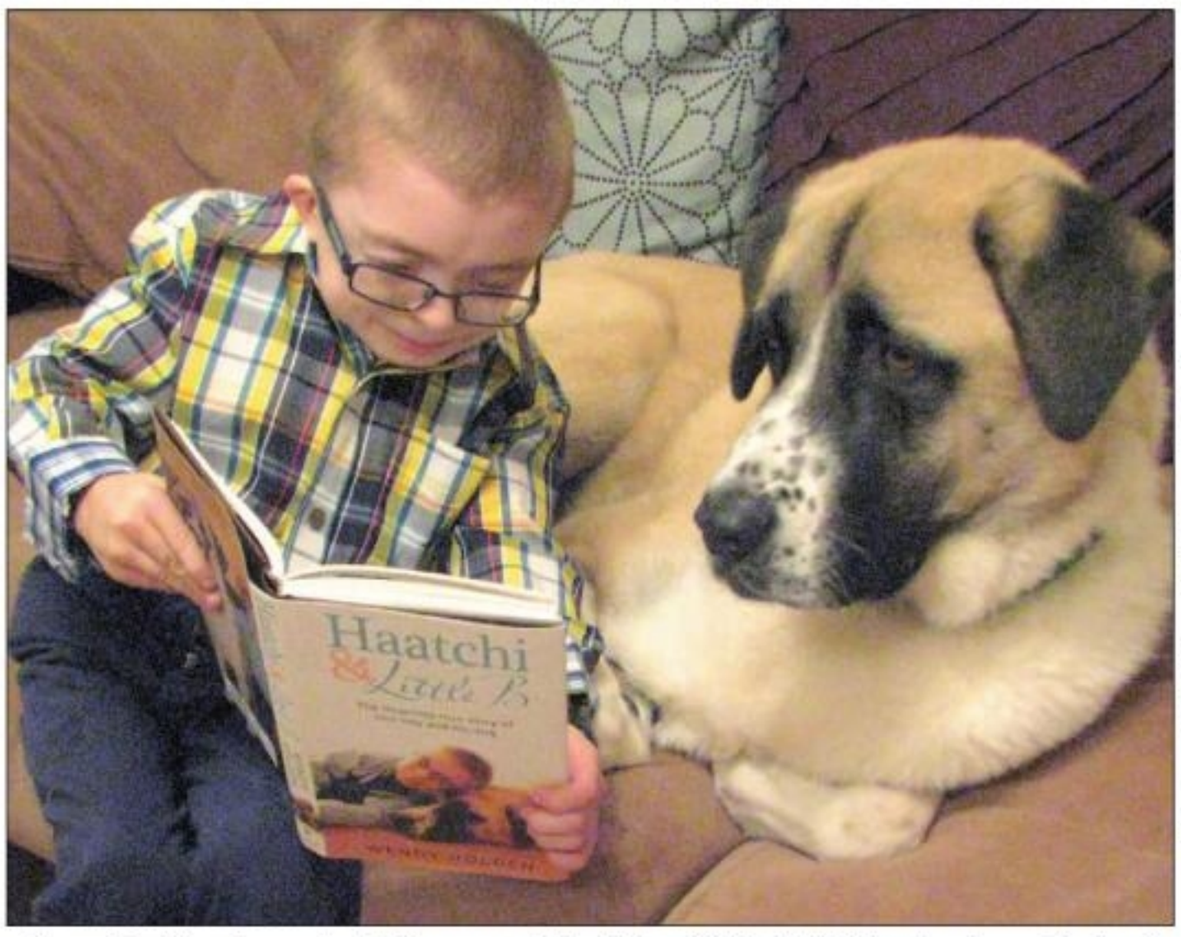
THE BEST OF FRIENDS



Family of Owen and Haatchi set to release story of friendship



• Owen Howkins shows Haatchi a copy of 'Haatchi and Little B' (Picture by James Booker)

THE heartwarming story about an eight-year-old disabled Basingstoke boy and his faithful pooch has been immortalised in a new book.

Haatchi and Little B, by Wendy Holden, tells the amazing true story of Owen Howkins and his Anatolian Shepherd dog Haatchi, who were brought together nearly two years ago.

Owen was a shy, reserved boy who suffers from the rare genetic disorder, Schwartz-Jampel syndrome. He was diagnosed when he was nearly two.

Schwartz-Jampel means Owen's muscles are in a permanently tense state, and the rarity of the condition means it receives little public exposure.

It is estimated less than 40 people worldwide suffer from the condition, and Owen is the only known person to be diagnosed in the UK.

"It's so rare, there's more chance of winning every jackpot of every single lottery in the country I think," said Owen's dad Will.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

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"There's probably hundreds of rare disorders, very few of which get much public information out about. It was mainly that once people know it's out there, people who get diagnosed know there are others with it, and can try and build a network and hopefully get to meet other people like them."

Two years ago, Haatchi, then a five-month old puppy, was beaten and cruelly tied to a railway track, and was hit by a train.

Miraculously, he survived and was rescued, but lost his leg and tail in the incident.

He was taken in by Will and Colleen, Owen's stepmum, and formed an instant and seemingly unbreakable bond with Owen.

Owen said Haatchi was "amazing", and was like "a bodyguard, as well as my best friend".

"He does loads of things for me," added Owen. "He's made me more confident and not scared of strangers anymore."

Little B is Owen's nickname, a shortened version of 'Little Buddy'. Colleen said they had been "inundated" with offers from publishers after the pair were voted "Crufts Friends for Life" by the public last year, one of several accolades the pair have been given.

"After Crufts, we got absolutely inundated by publishing firms," said Colleen.

"And what concerned us was that if we didn't respond, then somebody would try and write the story without our co-operation, and the facts would be wrong."

She contacted writer Wendy Holden via Facebook and, after a few exchanges, Wendy was on board, and has offered to act as their agent.

Wendy is no stranger to books about dogs, having written a 'canine autobiography' of Uggie, the Jack Russell terrier from the 2012 film The Artist.

The family also say the door has been left open for a series of children's books about the pair in the future.

• *Continued on page 2*

Ellen Kent presents the Chisinau National Opera & Philharmonic & International Soloists starring the beautiful Elena Dee

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Housing plans to be debated today

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council are set to debate how many new houses should be built in the area, at a meeting taking place tonight.

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

At the moment more than 13,000 houses could be built in the borough over the next 15 years, equating to around 748 per year.

But in a consultation send out in September and October, a number of residents were concerned the proposals may not be enough to meet the borough's housing needs in the future.

Councillors will be debating two options at a meeting this evening, relating to whether the figure should be increased to 791 or 807 new homes per year,

The recommendation is for the figure to increase to 807, with the final total expected to be decided at tonight's meeting by cabinet member for planning Cllr Mark Ruffell.

He said: "We are keen to get the plan adopted allowing the council to decide the best locations for development working with the borough's communities.

"The responses to the consultation have raised issues about the housing figure, as well as some very interesting points suggesting how we can adapt policies and proposals to ensure they are the best way forward for the borough.

"I want to hear again from councillors following the initial consultation responses before making a decision on the housing number, which may, along with other changes, be subject to further consultation."

If a higher figure is agreed upon by councillors, additional sites would have to be found to meet the new housing requirement.

The next step in the process would be to formally submit the draft plan to a planning inspector for independent review.

Planners have highlighted in the report to the meeting that local plans from other areas have been dismissed by planning inspectors in the past, as their housing figures have been branded as too low.

Pickles gives green light to Kennel plans

THE secretary of state for communities and local government has over-ruled Basingstoke borough councillors and given the go-ahead for plans to build over 300 homes near the town.

Eric Pickles granted developers Wates permission to build the 310 houses on Kennel Farm, off Winchester Road.

Local authority members had initially rejected the plans last year after fears it would lead to over-development.

They were also worried about its impact on the surrounding environment and local biodiversity.

In his report, planning inspector Jonathan King said the borough's lack of a five-year land supply and need for affordable housing also played a key role in the decision.

Fears have been expressed at the decision, with people feeling the site would not be sustainable, and risks adding to pressure on local schools.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?
Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**
or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Book signing date is set for Haatchi and 'Little B'

· Owen and Haatchi with dad Will and stepmum Colleen

• *From front page*

The signing is at Waterstones in Basingstoke on February 15, from 12.30pm until 3.30pm.

"Most people go to a big store to do a signing when a book launches, but we didn't want to go there, because Owen gets tired quite easily," added Will.

"So we decided to do it in Basingstoke – the shop were brilliant about it and said they definitely wanted to be involved."

Basingstoke's Mayor, Councillor Dan Putty, is scheduled to appear at the launch. At time of writing, the Facebook page Haatchi has attracted 25,513 'likes'.

· Shan Martin with the signed charter

AWE signs up for skills shortage drive

AWE has joined a national initiative aimed at addressing the skills shortage in young people by signing up to the 5 per cent Club.

The initiative is a pledge to commit five per cent of a company's workforce to apprenticeships, student, or graduate training programmes.

AWE, which has offices in Aldermaston, says it hopes this can contribute to ensuring the country retains a reputation for innovation and in addressing the problem of youth unemployment.

Shan Martin, AWE's director of HR, said: "AWE recognises the need to develop a skilled and diverse workforce for the future.

"As one of the countries leading apprenticeship providers, AWE has never been more committed to providing opportunities for young people. We are proud to be one of the first to sign up to the 5 per cent Club, and look forward to supporting this industry wide initiative in the months and years to come."

AWE has also launched its Young Scientist competition this week.

Teachers are invited to nominate Year 9 pupils who show an aptitude for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

For more information visit www.awe.co.uk.

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Milestones in extinct animal Lego exhibition

A BASINGSTOKE museum is set to feature a number of extinct animals built out of Lego, as part of a new themed exhibition starting next month.

Hampshire County Council's Milestones Museum will be home to a sabre-toothed tiger, a flock of dodos and a Neanderthal man, along with many other species that have long since died out.

The exhibition is the work of Lego artists from British company Bright Bricks, who worked with the council's keeper of natural history to create the models.

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

Throughout March, a 2.5m tall woolly mammoth will be built live from Lego on the indoor museum showground, and will be on display until April 27.

Cllr Keith Chapman, executive member for culture and recreation, said: "It is a great privilege to have Lego back at Milestones Museum.

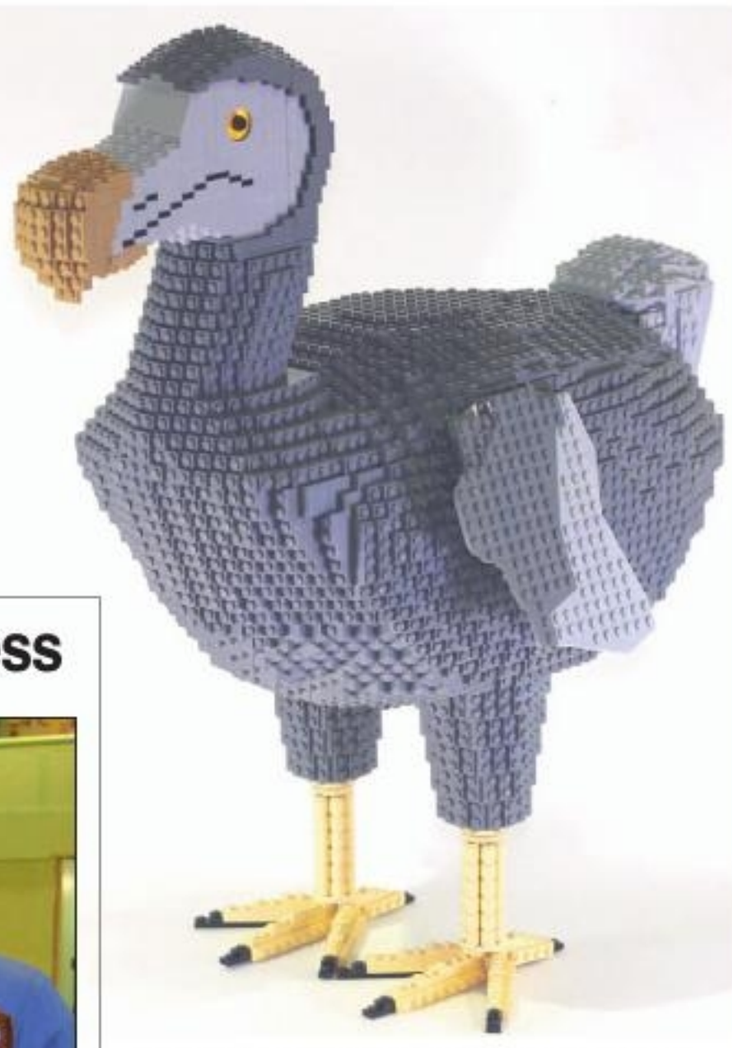
"Last year's Lego Mania event was a huge success and for the 2014 event, there are some great activities planned.

"I hope many people will visit, take part and have fun."

A number of family activities will also be on offer, including youngsters being able to dress up as an explorer, a spotter trail to complete and the chance for visitors to make their own Lego creations as well.

At weekends and the school holidays, the Lego mosaic drop-in activity will also be running, and Lego fun sessions can also be booked in advance.

Entry for the museum costs £7.95 for adults and £5.25 for children, and is free for Culture-all passport holders. For more information, go to www.milestones-museum.com.



• A variety of Lego models of extinct animals will be on display

Older people charities get £1.4m boost

HAMPSHIRE County Council is offering a share of £1.4million to organisations and charities that help older people in Basingstoke and across the county.

The grants are being awarded to help services that are better provided by the voluntary sector and meet the council's Adult Services' aims and objectives.

In 2014/15, the grants programme could potentially involve over 9,000 volunteers who work with the organisations and charities set to benefit.

The grants were approved by Cllr Liz Fairhurst, executive member for adult and social care, last Friday.

She said: "With the continuing challenges of the economic climate, with our government grant being cut by 43 per cent over four years, it's important that we continue to support these organisations and charities where we can.

"We can do this in a number of ways including giving grants, contracting services and helping organisations promote the services they provide in the community.

"These grants make a real difference to the organisations that receive them and the support they give to the community.

"We are funding projects that are most closely linked to our aims, but have still been able to offer funding to new groups and those who have previously received a grant and have applied for funding this year."

Alton College celebrates after sporting success

• Dean Gillatt, Joe Truman, Brad Taylor and Will Edwards with their respective awards

ALTON College is celebrating after a third of the town's sports awards went to current and former students at a ceremony earlier this month.

The overall Sports Person of the Year award went to student Brad Taylor, who is a bowler currently playing for England's U17s cricket team.

Other winners included PE teacher Dean Gillatt, who picked up the Senior Volunteer Male award for his coaching at Alton Handball Club.

Former student Paul Johnson and current students Joe Truman, Will Edwards and Sophie Hales were also honoured at the ceremony.

Dean said: "We have a number of students at Alton College competing nationally and internationally in their chosen sport.

"The students learn a huge amount through sport and they can transfer these skills to everyday life. It is a real privilege to work with these students and it is fantastic to see how much they are achieving."

Jo Green, the college's curriculum manager for sport, said: "The students have all worked incredibly hard and thoroughly deserve their awards.

"I'd also like to personally congratulate Dean, who not only supports all out students to reach their sporting potential, but also coaches handball voluntarily outside the college."

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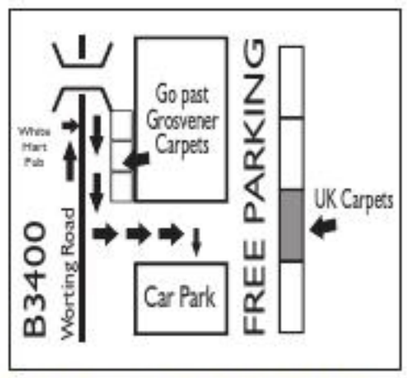

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News Bites

Library fun day

STORY lovers and budding young writers can benefit from a special day at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre on February 8.

To mark National Libraries Day, professional storyteller Michael O'Leary will tell tales about animals to keep children entertained.

And Alysoun Owen, editor of the Writers' and Artists' Yearbook, will give practical advice on how to get published.

For tickets and information, call 01256 478670.

Jewellery appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after jewellery and electrical items were stolen during a burglary in Basingstoke.

Between January 13 and 20, offenders broke into a house in Camrose Way by forcing their way in through a window.

Once inside they stole a number of electrical items and jewellery.

Save your energy

TWENTY-FIVE of Hampshire County Council's top energy consuming buildings are set to be made more efficient, in a scheme that could save £200,000 every year.

The Energy Performance Project will see an investment of £1.4million, and includes buildings such as libraries, activity centres and nursing homes.

Cllr Mel Kendal said: "Hampshire County Council is always looking to operate in more energy-efficient ways, save money and reduce its carbon emissions."

Swimmers of 'Stoke - where are you all?

BASINGSTOKE and Deane has emerged as distinctly water-shy, with less than five per cent of adults saying they swim once a week.

Just 4.96 per cent of the borough's people go swimming on a regular basis, putting the borough a lowly third from bottom of the country's 221 local authorities.

The results were compiled by Diabetes UK, as part of the charity's Swim 22 challenge launch.

This is Diabetes UK's channel swim pool challenge where participants swim 22 miles (the distance across the English Channel) at their local pool. The challenge will take place between February 22 and May 22.

Jill Steaton, South East regional manager for Diabetes UK, said: "Basingstoke and Deane is towards the bottom of the league table of regular swimmers, this doesn't have to be bad news.

"We want these results to challenge everyone in the area to make a splash in their local pool and give swimming a go.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"Swimming is a great way to keep physically active, which is really important for preventing Type 2 diabetes and helping to manage diabetes if you already have it.

"Swimming is a great way of getting your regular physical activity.

"And because many people find it so enjoyable, it is something they may be more likely to stick to in the long run.

"This is why Swim 22 is such a great way to support Diabetes UK.

"As well as raising money to help us continue with our vital work in supporting people with diabetes and those at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, Swim22 can also be the spur you need to take swimming up and to challenge yourself to get fitter.

"Also, because you can do the 22 miles over three months, you can gradually build up your fitness and hopefully make swimming regularly a habit you end up sticking to."

To sign up to Swim22 visit www.diabetes.org.uk/swim22 or call the National Events Team on 0345 123 2399.

Victims of genocide honoured in town

• The wreath laid by Cllr Putty and Mr Curtis, and the bugler marking the two minutes of silence at the Holocaust memorial

BASINGSTOKE fell silent on Monday morning as respects were paid to victims of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide.

Basingstoke Mayor, Councillor Dan Putty and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) chief executive Tony Curtis laid a wreath at the town's war memorial at 10am.

Townsfolk gathered at the site to pay their respects, and a bugler marked the observance of two minutes silence.

Holocaust Memorial Day has been commemorated worldwide since 2000 and is marked on the anniversary in 1945 of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

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Dogs seized in poaching crackdown

A MAN has been fined and had to give his dogs up after admitting poaching in Whitchurch.

Basingstoke magistrates fined 46-year-old Morris Cole £165 plus costs after he pleaded guilty to daytime poaching.

Magistrates also ordered Cole, from Yateley, had to forfeit two of his three dogs seized as part of the case.

Two other men, Lee Cooper from Southampton and Walter Smith of Totton, were convicted in a separate incident, in what are the first convictions where courts have ordered the forfeiture of dogs in poaching-related crimes.

The successful partnership agreements put in place by the force's dedicated Countrywatch officers allows forfeited dogs to be re-homed across the UK with responsible owners. The dogs used in these offences are considered a factor in the commission of a crime by the offenders and are seized as evidence.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Historically, offenders have considered themselves at low risk of sanction; even if prosecuted, dogs and vehicles would not be seized, allowing them to continue their criminal activity.

Chief Inspector Simon Dodds, strategic lead for rural policing, said: "These fines and forfeitures are an excellent result for these types of offences and provide a significant punishment and deterrent to these offenders.

"By taking robust action we can prevent further offences being committed and give a strong message to those that commit these offences. If we catch you, your dogs and vehicles will be forfeited.

"This zero-tolerance approach will continue to be our response to this type of crime to support rural communities and make Hampshire a hostile place for criminals. It also supports our wider plan to disrupt criminal activity."

Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Judy Venables added: "We are delighted with the outcome of these court cases. The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan sets challenges to the Chief Constable to reduce the gap in the solved crime rate between rural and urban areas.

"These prosecutions relate directly to the constabulary's rural crime strategy and it reflects the efforts of all those involved in successfully bringing this case to court, demonstrating the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

"The outcome sends out a strong message to criminals who commit crime in Hampshire's rural communities, that the police are steadfast in their pursuit to identify offenders, bring them to justice and ensure victim satisfaction."

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De-icer wielding robber sought

POLICE are hunting a tubby would-be robber after he allegedly sprayed de-icer in his victim's face, before trying to take his mobile phone.

The offender approached his 42-year-old victim on the footpath near Thorneycroft Lane on January 15.

After speaking to the man, the robber brandished a can and sprayed his victim in the face.

However, the robbery attempt failed as the victim managed to fight him off, but suffered a punch to the head during the scuffle.

The attacker is white, in his early 20s, and about 5ft 8ins-9ins tall.

He was wearing a black zip-up jacket, dark blue jeans and white trainers. He also had dark stubble on his face.

Detective Constable Drew Wright said: "This offence was committed in broad daylight on a member of the public simply going about his business.

"The possible use of de-icer spray in this incident is particularly unusual. Do you know anything about this incident?

"The pathway is a busy route for people travelling in and out of the South Ham area so someone may have seen this incident or the attacker running away."

· Have you seen this man?

News Bites

Hospice reveals lottery results

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the results of its lottery draw from January 24.

First prize of £1,000 goes to 00219 of Hook, while 33433 of Cranbourne picks up second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 is awarded to ticket 45046 of Basingstoke, and Hook ticket 04722 of Hook grabs fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen runner-up prizes of £5 are given to 00354, 03440, 13016, 17548, 23738, 27429, 39521, 39962, 44039, 46661, 56217, 58932, 75008, 75660, 76709 and 78411.

MP Miller: 'Take part in storm consultation'

MARIA Miller has urged Basingstoke's people to take part in the consultation launched after the Christmas storms.

Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) are asking for customers' views to improve services in the event of a power cut.

Maria said: "I know that engineers from SSEPD worked hard to restore people's power supplies as quickly as they could over the festive period, but unfortunately some people were without power until December 28.

"I would urge customers to look at the consultation and respond with their views."

The consultation runs until 28 March 2014 and can be found on the SSEPD website at www.ssepd.co.uk/HaveYourSay/December2013Storm-Consultation.

Residents - we were not given proper consultation

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

RESIDENTS have voiced their anger about the lack of consultation by developers of a housing site in Odiham.

A petition with more than 120 signatures was presented to Hart District Council last week by people who live near the Hatchwood Place site.

Developers Charles Church want to build 89 dwellings on the site on Farnham Road.

The group is concerned the development will 'change the historic settlement and natural boundaries of Odiham', while resulting in a 'crude new skyline'.

One of the group, resident Sonja Smedley, added: "We know additional housing must come to Odiham, but Charles Church decided not to engage with local villagers.

"If they had, we could have contributed to safer, better, and more acceptable solutions from the outset.

"As it was, the latest proposals came out on the last day before Christmas, they were incomplete, incredibly difficult to follow, and there were only ten days for public comment.

"It shows how much concern there is that even over the holiday period around 50 responses were sent in to the council, and so many people have signed this petition."

Karl Endersby, technical director at Charles Church Southern, said: "Charles Church purchased the site in Odiham with outline planning approval already in place and design parameters clearly set.

"Public consultation was held during the outline process when local residents, councillors and members of the local community were involved in shaping the design principles of the application. Consequently, it was not felt that a public exhibition would be required as the main concerns highlighted by residents and the parish council had been duly considered in the granting of that outline approval.

"Although changes to the application have been brought about through ongoing discussions with the parish council and Hart District Council, the principle design remains the same.

"In relation to the concerns over the existing Odiham drainage network, this is a matter that we understand is being addressed directly between Thames Water and the local community along with the parish council."

• The petition

Cllr Stephen Parker, cabinet member for planning and regulation at HDC, said: "Residents can be assured that there will be a further opportunity to comment on the revised plans, now that Hart has had them clarified, and councillors will ensure that proper account is taken of all comments when they consider the application.

"However, if approved, this proposal will provide 36 affordable homes for local Hart people, a new park leading to the canal thus preserving that land against development as well as all the usual infrastructure items such as school places."

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Correction

LAST week, the Basingstoke Observer published an article relating to couples celebrating their golden or diamond anniversaries this year being invited to a special reception with the Mayor.

The article incorrectly stated couples that were eligible to be invited should be celebrating their anniversary between May 9 and May 29.

It should have read 'between May 9 2013 and May 29 2014'. We sincerely apologise for any confusion.

The reception is being held at the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) civic offices on March 11.

Couples who are eligible can get in touch with the council via 01256 844844 and leave their contact details.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**

or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Pupils continue to impress after strong GCSE showing

GCSE students in Basingstoke and Hampshire have once again registered strong results, according to the 2013 School Performance Tables released last week.

Sixty per cent of the county's students achieved five or more A*-C GCSE passes..

Performance in both English and Maths was strong this year with 68 per cent and 72 per cent respectively achieving A* to C grades, both increases from 2012. Results for disadvantaged students have also improved this year with 31 per cent now achieving five A* to C GCSE passes.

Many students also studied for a range of other qualifications including diplomas, BTECs and National Vocational Qualifications.

Councillor Peter Edgar, executive member for Education at Hampshire County Council, said: "Hampshire's schools continue to strongly support our 16-year-olds to achieve the highest standards and we appreciate the encouragement of parents and the work of teachers in helping these students to achieve.

"I wish these students continued success in their current study in further education, training or study for A-Levels or vocational skills and qualifications.

"Competition for jobs is high so enabling young people to obtain the best qualifications and develop the highest standard of skills that they can, will stand them in good stead."

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"When I got to the service station, I parked up, went to the loo, had a coffee, bought a paper, filled up with petrol and got back on the road.

"It was only 20 miles up the motorway that I realised that I hadn't bought the cigarettes that were my reason for stopping in the first place.

"One hypnotherapy session with you had so completely changed me, in terms of the habit of smoking, that I did not buy cigarettes then – and have not thought about them since.

"You've transformed my life. Thank you!" – **Steve, Sales Executive, Reading**

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"Once I realised that connection, my need for the sweets disappeared, I stopped eating them and the weight dropped off me.

"Without you, I could have gone on like that for years. Thank you." **– Sue, Basingstoke**

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County 'is performing well' in adoption stats

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

CHILDREN placed for adoption in Hampshire are spending less time in care than other areas of the country, according to new government statistics.

In all three headline areas of the Government's new adoption scorecard, which identifies how council adoption services are performing, Hampshire County Council continues to perform well compared to the national average.

Since November 2012, the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family is 599 days - 48 days shorter than the national average of 647 days.

During 2010-2013, 58 per cent of children in Hampshire were placed with adoptive families within six months of the placement order being granted by courts.

This took an average of 192 days, 18 days ahead of the national average.

Councillor Keith Mans, HCC's deputy leader and executive member for children's services, said: "Over the last 18 months, we have been carefully reviewing our adoption service to ensure it is providing the best possible service to children and young people in Hampshire in our care and the adopters we work with.

"As part of the review, we have incorporated the Government's adoption reform agenda so that our service performs well and meets expectations set nationally.

"In recent years, Hampshire has seen an increase in the number of children and young people with a range of complex needs and from sibling groups. Our priority is to secure the most appropriate placement for a child.

Since January 2013, we have actively focused on ensuring that we recruit adopters willing to consider more complex children and larger sibling groups.

This has proved to be very successful in enabling these children to be adopted.

"We would welcome further discussion with anyone interested in these children who are especially in need of loving and supportive families.

"Like any other parenting, adoption is challenging but it is also very rewarding to help a child who may have had a difficult start in life to grow and thrive."

Further information about Hampshire's adoption service is available at www.hants.gov.uk/adoption or via 0845 603 5620.

School hosts fair trade fun day for pupils

Students who attended CBEC's fair trade day

A BASINGSTOKE school played host to 90 infant and junior pupils last week, for the annual Student Council Cluster Conference on fair trade.

Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, which took place last Friday, was opened by Cranbourne's Young Chamber Team and Spencer Brown from Basingstoke College of Technology (BCOT).

Visiting pupils engaged in three workshops during the day including arts and craft – making bunting and designing posters, chocolate tasting, music – exploring the different cultures of fair trade countries.

Pupils also played games which showed how hard people have to work for minimal pay.

The day was aimed at raising awareness of fair trade products and the people involved in producing them.

A CBEC statement said: "It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and excellent to see the link from infant school to post 16.

"Cranbourne students were delighted to have the opportunity to work with pupils in our feeder schools. We look forward to further joint enterprises in the future."

Manor Field infant school, one of the schools who sent student representatives, said: "We learnt about fair trade and made flags.

"We used blue, green and black to make the flags because these are the colours of the fair trade logo.

"We are going to put the flags up in March during fair trade Fortnight."

Cops appeal after teen is robbed in Basingstoke

DETECTIVES are appealing for witnesses following the robbery of a teenager in Basingstoke on Monday.

The victim, a 19-year-old man, was walking home via a green area between the Victory Road roundabout and Lower Brook Street when he was approached by an unknown man.

This man threatened him and asked for money.

The suspect is white, over 6ft, of heavy build and in his mid-to-late 20s.

Wearing a black hooded top, green chinos and white high top trainers.

Detective Constable Andy Panter said: "The victim was not assaulted during the incident but the threat of violence will not be tolerated.

"Were you in the area at the time and did you see anyone matching the suspect's description? Anyone with information about this incident should contact police so we can find the person responsible."

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Det Con Panter at Basingstoke police station by phoning 101.

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Council keep school meal prices frozen

SCHOOL meals in Basingstoke and throughout the county have been frozen for the sixth year in a row.

Hampshire County Council (HCC)'s executive member for Education, Cllr Peter Edgar, announced the decision to keep prices at £2 last Wednesday.

More than 39,000 primary children in Hampshire, an average take up of 40.8 per cent, eat school meals each day.

Cllr Edgar said: "I am mindful that we are living in difficult economic times so I hope this news is welcomed by parents. In my view, these meals represent excellent value for money. The school meal service provides nutritious meals, working closely with schools, pupils and parents to create varied menus that are healthy and tasty.

"It also plays an important role in the development of healthy eating habits among children, which can be key to preventing problems such as obesity in later life.

"It has long been recognised that a child's diet not only affects their physical health but also impacts on their behaviour, concentration and performance in the classroom.

"Eating together also provides children and young people with a valuable opportunity to further develop their social skills and widen their experiences."

ACSOs set for axe as cuts take their toll...

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE'S Accredited Community Support Officers (ACSOs) are set to be axed as part of the county council's proposed budget cuts.

HCC leader Roy Perry has proposed the move to cut Hampshire's 33 officers following his policy and resources decision day.

The county council is faced with £93million budget reduction from central government by 2015.

"We are proud of our ACSOs and I am in absolutely no doubt about the good work that they have done and I am full of admiration for how they have operated, but I need to balance a budget and address a £90million pressure on that budget, which is a huge sum," said Cllr Perry.

"The County Council has legal responsibilities to provide certain services, and in those cases can be the only statutory provider.

"In addition, the County Council often funds and delivers non-statutory services as in the case of the Accredited Community Safety Service, but in the current economic climate, these types of discretionary services are increasingly coming under pressure.

"Not through our own choice or making, we are now being forced to make difficult decisions about how we rebalance our budget in response to significant cuts to our funding from Central Government and to avoid raising Council Tax.

"We have prioritised and protected funding for the children in our care and for the elderly who have to turn to us, so it is to the non-statutory services where other bodies have the major or shared responsibility that we must look for service economies.

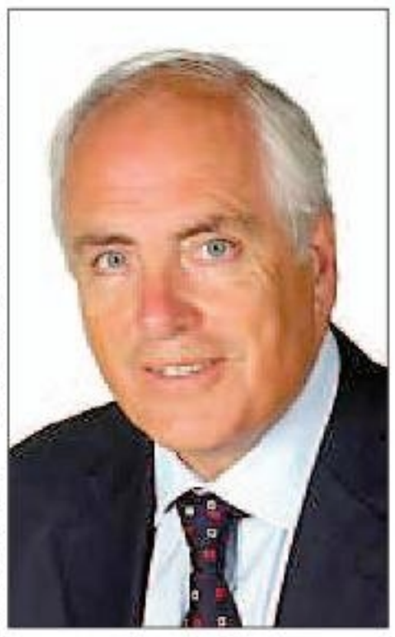
"This means doing things differently and finding the most cost-effective solutions to delivering services.

"We have been very pleased to have been able to fund the provision of the Accredited Community Safety Service over the last decade, at a time when resources have been available.

"It is fair to say that for the last ten years, in funding Accredited Community Safety Officers, we have been complementing the existing activities of the Police, who have the main responsibility for community safety.

"The 33 ACSOs, although clearly valued by local communities, represent only one per cent of the total capacity of the Police's 333 PCSOs and over 3,000 uniformed police officers, and therefore can be regarded as valuable but minority players in community safety as a whole.

"We have to concentrate our resources on those people and services for which we are the only provider."



• HCC leader Cllr Roy Perry

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Opinions voiced on funds

SOUTH Ham and Buckskin residents voted last night on which community projects will receive a funding boost in their area.

The 'Your Community, Your Choice' grants of up to £2,000, provided by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Sovereign Housing Association as part of The Neighbourhood Partnership for the area, aim to assist voluntary and community organisations to deliver sustainable projects in Buckskin and South Ham.

The Neighbourhood Partnership unites representatives from associations, planning groups, faith groups and councillors with agencies such as Sovereign Housing Association, North Hants Clinical Commissioning group and the police to enable people to influence and improve community life.

Residents voted last night on which projects they felt deserved their grants at Ridgeway Centre, Buckskin and West Community Centre in South Ham.

The council's cabinet member for Community Services, Cllr Hayley Eachus, said: "By giving the community the opportunity to vote on which projects receive a funding boost it means they get a real say in both what they need and also what they gets in terms of community projects, which is at the heart of the Neighbourhood Partnership."

Lee Dillon, Sovereign's community investment coordinator, added: "We are delighted to be part of the Neighbourhood Partnership and strongly support the idea that local residents should have a say in which projects should be funded to help strengthen their community and urge residents to go along to either centre to vote."

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'A bit of everything'

RENOWNED vocalist Paul Carrack, who has sung with Mike and The Mechanics, The Eagles and Ringo Starr and his All-Starr Band, performs at The Anvil on Wednesday.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Paul is the voice behind such hits including 'How Long' by Ace, 'Tempted' by Squeeze and the classic Mike and The Mechanics hit 'The Living Years'.

Last year Paul released his latest album 'Rain or Shine'; his 11th since the turn of the century.

He is now a solo artist in his own right, and recently toured internationally as a member of Eric Clapton's band, before starting the current tour in October.

"The tour's gone great," said Paul. "It's got a bit of everything. "We covered a fair amount of ground, so it's quite varied, but the common thread is myself and the voice I suppose.

"We're probably playing five tunes off the new album, plus we always include the big hits I have been involved in. Stuff from the whole career basically."

Paul has been performing as a musician for over 40 years, and has made guest appearances on over 60 albums during that time.

His newest release has been well received by fans and critics, with Paul adding that "it's been very positive".

He followed: "We originally were going to bring it out about now, but we released a single initially called 'That's All That Matters To Me', and that had very substantial airplay.

"So we thought it would be crazy not to release it with us being on tour and with Christmas.

"I'm proud of it and our fans like it, as we thought they would. It's got good string arrangements and production.

"We're about to release another single now to promote the tour as much as anything, but it's a very positive reaction and it's ticking along quite nicely."

Wednesday's show begins at 7.45pm, and tickets start from £29.50. For more details, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

· Paul Carrack makes his return to The Anvil on Wednesday

Going Green

THE Forest Forge Theatre Company bring their production of Anne of Green Gables to the Bordon Phoenix tomorrow evening.

It is winter in Avonlea, and a smiling but lost girl called Anne arrives at the train station in what is a story about family, friendship and the fun of childhood. Tickets cost £11 for a 7pm start.

Sean Hughes

AWARD-WINNING comedian and former Never Mind the Buzzcocks team captain Sean Hughes is in Basingstoke tomorrow, with his new tour Penguins coming to Central Studio.

Topics include career guidance teachers, older brothers and an angry monk, in what promises to be a hilarious new show. The show begins at 7.30pm, and costs £15.

Rainbow Senses

THE Proteus Creation Space is host to Rainbow Senses, a combination of sound, movement, visuals and sacred chocolate, which takes place tomorrow evening.

Tickets cost £20, and it runs from 7pm to 10pm. For details, go to www.proteustheatre.com or call 01256 321621.

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Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts.

If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

'It's all a risk, isn't it?'

DESCRIBED as one of the world's best harmonica players, Will Pound comes to The Forge with his band tomorrow evening.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Will has previously been associated with banjo player Dan Walsh, but released his first solo album last year to critical acclaim, and featuring a number of guest musicians in the tracks.

And yet Will's love of the harmonica may not have come about, had it not been for the open-heart surgery he endured as a 10-year-old.

"I had heart surgery when I was younger, and my dad gave me a harmonica just to help with my breathing basically," Will said.

"So I started playing it and really enjoyed it and I carried on playing. It did help my breathing as well, which was good."

Will is performing with his band at The Forge, which comprises of guitarist and vocalist Chris Sarjeant, fiddle player Henry Webster, and John Parker on the double bass.

His recent album 'A Cut Above' was largely a solo effort, but it did feature cameos from John and a number of other musicians.

"Every track is led by the harmonica basically," said Will. "And then there's backing from guitars and stuff like that.

"It's one of those things where if you don't like the harmonica, people are not necessarily going to like it! When they think of a harmonica, they usually think of Bob Dylan.

"They don't think of it as an instrument that would be used purely for instrumental music, but actually I've had some great reviews. It's all a risk isn't it? When you send something out you never know how people are going to react to it, but it's been mainly good to be honest."

Tomorrow's show starts at 8pm, and tickets cost £14.50. For more information, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or phone 01256 844244.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

· (From left) Chris Sarjeant, John Parker, Will Pound and Henry Webster are at The Forge tomorrow night

That'll be the day

POPULAR rock and roll variety show That'll Be The Day returns to The Anvil tomorrow, with a brand new production for 2014.

The show features a number of hits from the fifties, sixties and seventies, interspersed with comedy routines to create a feel-good party atmosphere. It starts at 7.45pm, and tickets cost £24.50.

Dream Nation

DREAM Nation, an exhibition by the Tangle Company, begins at the Proteus Creation Space on Monday.

It has been inspired by Martin Luther King Jr's 'I have a dream' speech, and invites communities from across Hampshire to write original haikus that relate to Dr King's vision for change.

It runs until February 10.

Owen Tromans

RENOWNED musician Owen Tromans comes to The Railway in Winchester tomorrow evening, with his group The Elders. Owen led the John Peel favourites San Lorenzo before pursuing his solo career, and has released a number of albums including 'Box of Tapes' and 'Hope is a Magnet'.

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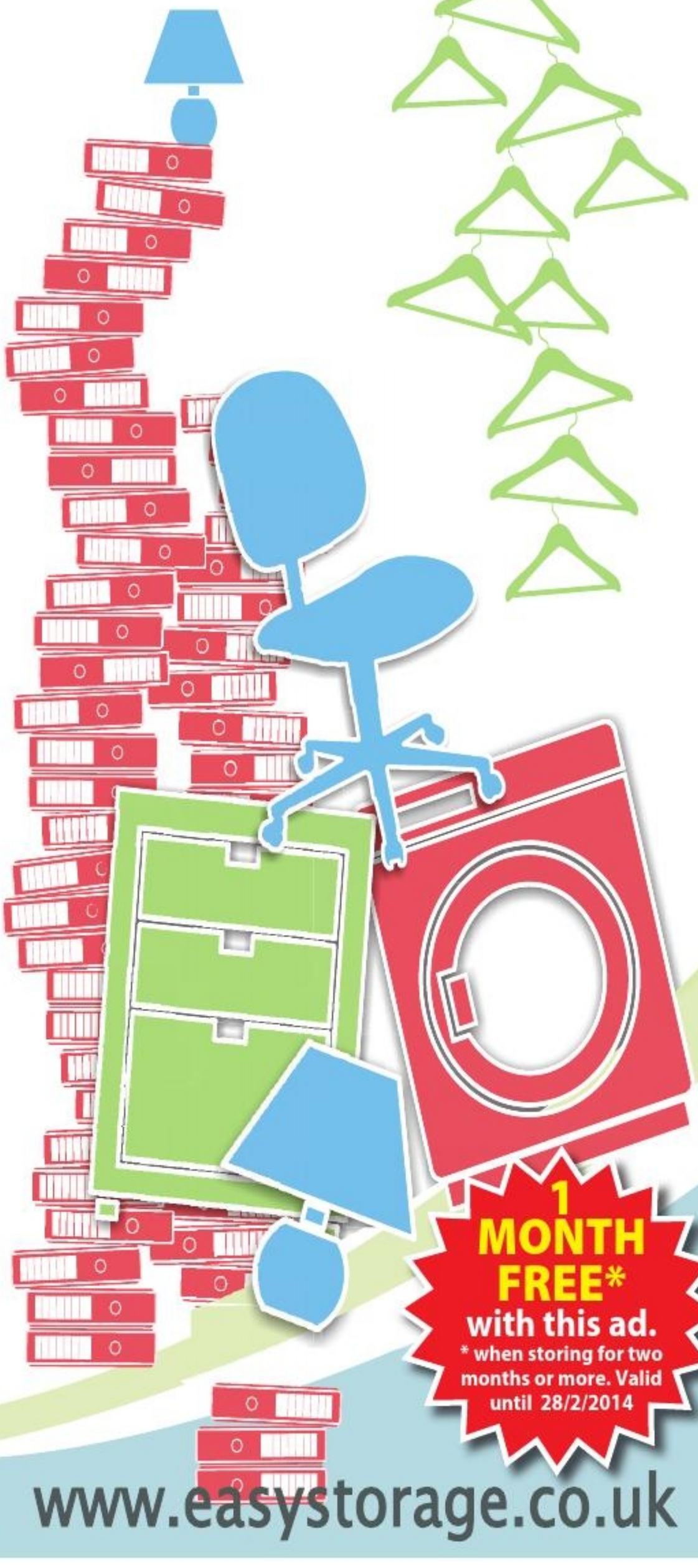

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Entertainment

To advertise in this section please call **01235 511700**. To place a free event listing email the details to **whatson@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

12 Dec - 5 Jan
The Anvil
ALADDIN
Aladdin tells the story of the son of poor washer woman Widow Twankey and his brother Wishee Washee. Aladdin is lured into a cave, brimming with jewels, by the wicked Abanazar who wants Aladdin to find an old forgotten lamp. However, on rubbing the dirty object, Aladdin releases a magical Genie who gives him three wishes. So begins our hero's adventures which include riding on a flying carpet and meeting a beautiful Princess.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

15 Dec, 3pm - 5:30pm
Aldermaston Concert Centre, William Penney Theatre, AWE
LIGHT-ENTERTAINMENT CONCERT
Music, spanning many decades - this month, Elizabeth Harrrison. (The Electronic Organ creates any and every musical sound - all at the touch of a few buttons!!!!) Pay as you arrive £ 6.50.
Sylvia 01189 323 971

8 Jan, 7:30pm - 9pm
St Marks School
DITCH THE DIET - FREE SEMINAR
The only all female weight loss group that helps you take back control over your health and your weight. Free Seminars being held; Wednesday 8th January 7:30pm St Marks School. Saturday 11th January 10:30am Preston Candover Village Hall. Come hear about how you can be the best you can be. No points, no colours, no shakes and no more yo yo. Lets Ditch The Diets Together.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_maqD9fExY8 www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFQteqdkb2M" 07872 967812

11 Jan, 7:30pm - 11:45pm
Crown Lane, Old Basing
RECORD HOP NIGHT WITH DJ STOMPIN' STEVE
£5 on the door
7904931161

13 Jan - 31 Mar, 2am - 4am
Kingsclere village hall
DRAWING AND PAINTING CLASSES
Art Tutor Bethany will lead you in a class lesson or support you in your own projects in a range of media. For beginners and intermediates. Come along relax, have fun and enjoy!
Louise Porton on 01635 299371 or email education@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

15 Jan, 7:45pm
The Anvil
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
The evening's programme includes Mendelssohn: Overture: The Hebrides and Symphony no. 3 (Scottish). Both Mendelssohn pieces stem from a trip the young composer made to the Highlands in 1829, although the symphony was in fact the last he composed.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

17 Jan, 7:45pm
The Anvil
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

17 Jan, 7:30pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
FREE - Come along to play or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers.
Bar available. Free parking available zwww.centralstudio.co.uk

20 Jan, 2pm - 4pm
KINGSCLERE VILLAGE HALL
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01635 299371 or email education@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

21 Jan
Phoenix Theatre Bordon
OMID DJALILI LIVE
01420 472664

22 Jan, 11am - 4pm
UK Wolf Conservation Trust
UKWCT VISIT WEDNESDAYS
Come & see our 10 wolves including Arctic, European/ North Western wolves. Photography platform area overlooking the wolves enclosure & waterfall pond. Guided tours & talks during the day & watch the wolves being fed at 2pm. Ask the experts about wolves & listen to them howling. No food facilities but tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Outdoor picnic benches. No booking required. Adults £8, Children 3-12 & Senior Citizens £5, Children under 3 – Free. Sorry no dogs allowed on site.
0118 971 3330 www.ukwolf.org

24 Jan, 7:45pm
The Anvil
LET'S HANG ON
A musical journey through the prolific career of one of the most successful bands of all time - Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons.
Definitely not a night to be missed! TICKETS: £21 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 Jan, 11am
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
THE SNOW QUEEN
£6 full, £5 children. With beautifully crafted songs, this Anderson tale will delight and enthral all who watch. From the Sorcerer who creates the mirror that distorts people's stare, to the path of true love that Gerda shows Kay. This is an adventure story that follows Gerda on her search to find Kay who has been kidnapped by the Snow Queen. "
www.centralstudio.co.uk

25 Jan, 11am
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
THE GOLDEN PRINCESS
£6 full, £5 children. Melo, the strange, one legged musician, sits alone by the sea, content in his world and playing the most beautiful music. But who comes here? A golden carriage bearing a Princess so beautiful that she wears a golden mask to hide her blinding beauty. And she pushes him in the mud! What kind of a world is this, where one who hides her beauty behaves so badly to the one with beauty at his fingertips? It is the 'Land of Rumours' of course. A theatrical performance using acting, puppets, shadows and music.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

25 Jan, 2pm
East Oakley Village Hall
OAKLEY SCOUT GROUP JUMBLE SALE

25 Jan, 7:45pm
The Anvil
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 Jan, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
THE KAST OFF KINKS
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

29 Jan, 11am - 4pm
UK Wolf Conservation Trust - Beenham
UKWCT VISIT WEDNESDAYS
Come & see our 10 wolves including Arctic, European/ North Western wolves. Photography platform area overlooking the wolves enclosure & waterfall pond. Guided tours & talks during the day & watch the wolves being fed at 2pm. Ask the experts about wolves & listen to them howling. No food facilities but tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Outdoor picnic benches. No booking required. Adults £8, Children 3-12 & Senior Citizens £5, Children under 3 – Free.
Sorry no dogs allowed on site.
0118 9713330
www.ukwolf.org

30 Jan, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
HAL CRUTTENDEN
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

30 Jan, 7:30pm - 8:30pm
The Serenity Centre, Tadley
CALM PARENTS
A 5 week course for parents exploring a variety of different meditation and relaxation techniques that can easily be incorporated into a busy parent's life. £9 per session or £40 for the whole course"
dani@heartandmindeducation.co.uk or call Dani on 07887 798878

31 Jan, 7:30pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
SEAN HUGHES
£15 full | £13 concession. The award winning comedian, writer and actor Sean Hughes presents his latest gem Penguins. Career guidance teachers, an angry monk, older brothers to losing his virginity -it's all there.
You'll leave uplifted! It's a total joy." www.centralstudio.co.uk

31 Jan - 1 Feb
Silchester Village Hall
ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES - PANTOMIME
www.silchesterplayers.hampshire.org.uk

31 Jan, 8pm
The Forge
THE WILL POUND BAND
Harmonica player Will Pound tours with Chris Sarjeant guitar/vocals (Jackie Oates band) Henry Webster fiddle (2013 London Fiddle Convention Winner, Henry Webster Band) and John Parker double bass (Nizlopi, Paper Aeroplanes). A mix of English, Irish and Northumbrian tunes with jazz, bluegrass, blues, rock and seriously funky rhythms. TICKETS: £14.50; OVER 65s, UNDER 16s & F/T STUDENTS £12.50 TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £1 BOOKING FEE
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

31 Jan, 7:45pm
The Anvil
THAT'LL BE THE DAY
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

31 Jan, 8pm
The Forge
THE WILL POUND BAND
Enjoy a mix of English, Irish and Northumbrian tunes with jazz, blues, and seriously funky rhythms.
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31 Jan - 1 Feb, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
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www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk

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GUY TORTORA BAND
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www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk

5 Feb, 11am - 4pm
Butlers Farm, Beenham
UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST VISIT WEDNESDAY'S
Come & see our 10 wolves including Arctic, European/ North Western wolves. Photography platform area overlooking the wolves enclosure & waterfall pond. Guided tours & talks during the day & watch the wolves being fed at 2pm. Ask the experts about wolves & listen to them howling. No food facilities but tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Outdoor picnic benches. No booking required.
0118 971 3330 www.ukwolf.org

6 Feb, 7:45pm
The Anvil
BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Berlioz: Three movements from Romeo and Juliet
Liszt: Piano Concerto no 1.
Scriabin: Poem of Ecstasy
Piano: Stephen Hough
Conductor: Kirill Karabits"
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

7 Feb, 7:30pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
MILES JUPP
Tickets: £15. Miles Jupp - actor, writer and comedian will be discussing/ranting/describing: himself, you, domestic imprisonment, fatherhood, having to have opinions, hot drinks, the bloody government, bad balance, housing, ill health, the ageing process, navigation, other people's pants and, inevitably, a number of other things."
www.centralstudio.co.uk

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Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

9				6	3			
2		8			1	3		
	6					7	4	1
	3			1	9		2	7
6			8		7			4
8	9		2	5			1	
4	5	9					6	
		3	4			5		8
			1	2				9

1				8				3
	7						6	
		6	9		5	1		
4	6		5		8		3	7
			3		7			
3	9		1		4		8	5
		2	4		9	3		
	4						9	
5				7				2

					3	6		1
				1		2		
						4	9	
	6				9		1	2
9			6		8			5
2	7		4				3	
	5	9						
		4		7				
6		7	8					

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Photographer's apparatus (6)
8 Claws (7)
10 Sinews (7)
11 Disturb (5)
12 Bottles (5)
13 Scent (9)
16 Helper (9)
19 Equipment (5)
20 Gum (5)
22 Sinister (7)
23 Paying attention (7)
24 Most vile (6)

Quick Clues Down

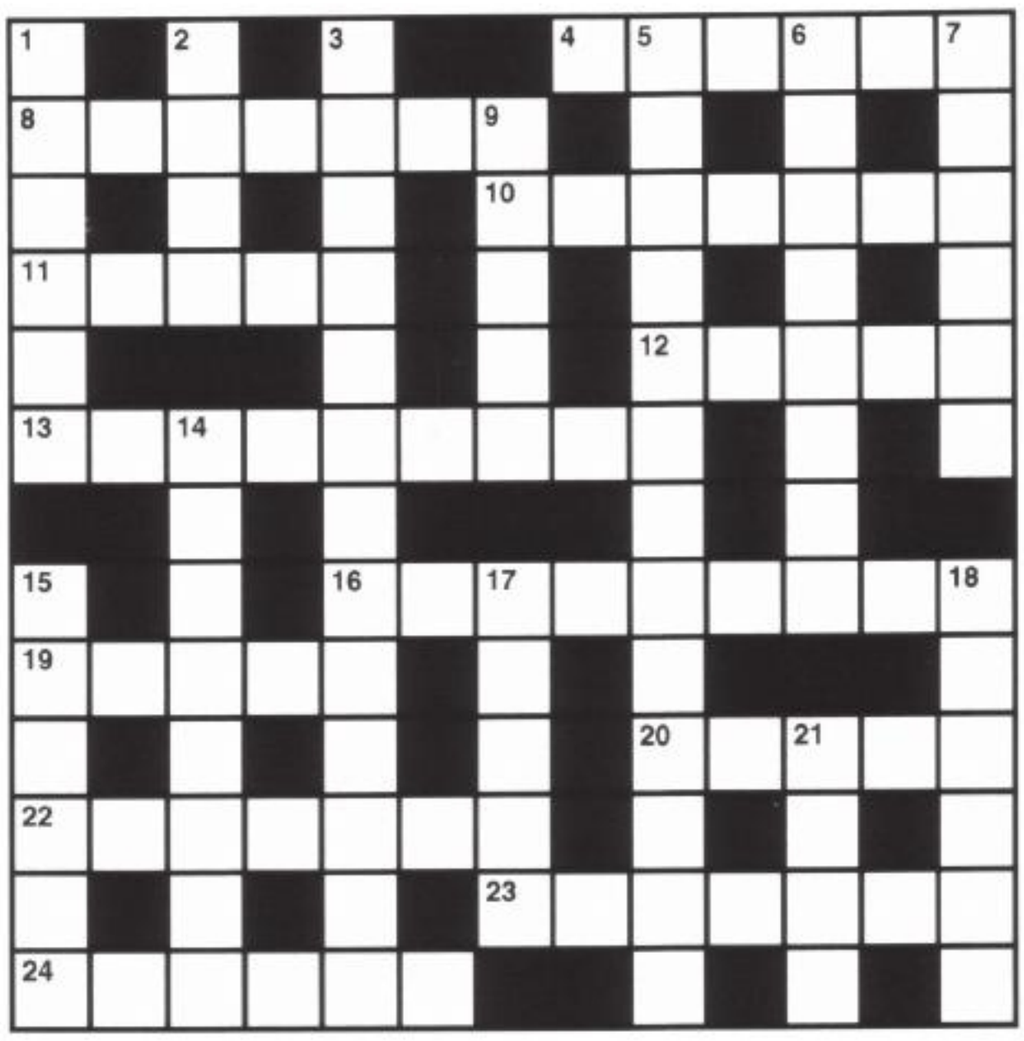
1 Overwhelm (6)
2 Watering places (4)
3 Disturbances (13)
5 Annual commemorations (13)
6 Extreme selfishness (8)
7 Estimate (6)
9 Back (5)
14 Water sports (8)
15 Selfpossession (6)
17 Rip (5)
18 Muddle (6)
21 Nonalcoholic (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Investigated professional plot (6)
8 Stayed the course and finished round the old city (7)
10 Knowledgeable after the finish that's the position (7)
11 It's no joke getting behind at sea (5)
12 Mr Wood, senior, we presume? (5)
13 Getting a rise? (9)
16 Was Robin Hood so bandy, then? (36)
19 What's the wild dog doing? (5)
20 Where one is expected to take steps (5)
22 Classical welcome to the right communist is declared (7)
23 Stumped on the golfcourse (7)
24 Unruly sets I'd stop (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Praise about a former country (6)
2 Lied about being out of work (4)
3 They provide a firm basis for pressing matters (7,6)
5 Holidays somehow delayed RollsRoyce test (36,4)
6 Fifty in the band are dazzling (8)
7 Dry out the organ dull (6)
9 She could be an ideal girl (5)
14 Risks about a pound in church (8)
15 He somehow drew with the District Attorney (6)
17 Presumably *you* don't mind if they are cross (5)
18 Is in awe of many mad dares (6)
21 It can take a hammering (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

8	3	7	4	6	5	9	2	1
1	5	6	2	3	9	7	4	8
9	2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6
2	4	1	6	8	3	5	9	7
3	9	8	5	7	2	1	6	4
6	7	5	1	9	4	8	3	2
4	1	2	3	5	7	6	8	9
7	8	3	9	4	6	2	1	5
5	6	9	8	2	1	4	7	3

1	4	9	8	2	3	6	5	7
6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3
8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9
4	9	8	2	3	6	5	7	1
2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8
5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3	6
3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2
9	8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4
7	1	4	9	8	2	3	6	5

7	9	6	3	5	4	2	8	1
5	8	4	7	1	2	6	3	9
3	2	1	9	6	8	7	4	5
4	1	8	2	9	6	5	7	3
2	5	3	4	8	7	1	9	6
9	6	7	1	3	5	4	2	8
1	7	5	8	2	9	3	6	4
6	4	9	5	7	3	8	1	2
8	3	2	6	4	1	9	5	7

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Occupations 9 Peg 10 Introduce 11 Class 13 Scarabs 14 Argosy 16 Beggar 18 Imagine 19 Reach 20 Trampling 21 Map 22 Celebrating

Down: 2 Cog 3 Units 4 Attest 5 Iron age 6 Neuralgia 7 Specialists 8 Censorships 12 Aggravate 15 Stipple 17 Senior 19 Right 21 Men

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Paper-hanger 9 Rum 10 Centipede 11 Impel 13 Sponges 14 Ghosts16 Veneer 18 Harries 19 Ounce 20 Machinate 21 Oat 22 Asseverates

Down: 2 Aim 3 Excel 4 Honest 5 Noisome 6 Evergreen 7 Crying shame 8 Sea-serpents 12 Protracts 15 Thin ice 17 Estate 19 Opera 21 Ore

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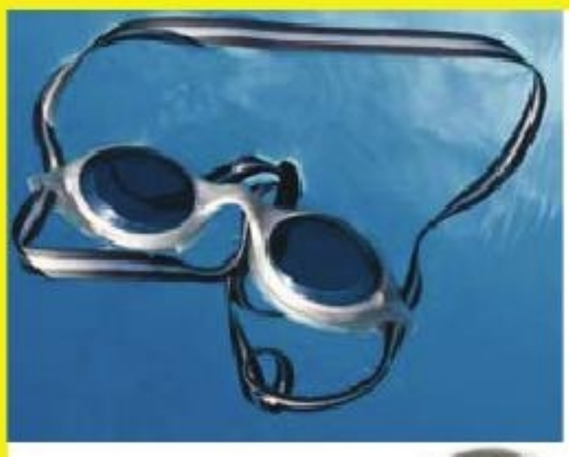

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Valentines

Put a smile on his face this Valentine's Day

By James Booker

WHILE Valentine's Day is traditionally reserved for romance, there are plenty of people who believe the celebration has become too commercial.

However, a little frivolity and fun can reduce the stress placed on buying gifts for a loved one, allowing you to find the perfect gift for your partner easily and show you are still a romantic at heart deep down.

Hunting for a Valentine's Day card for a man can be difficult, particularly if you are keen to find something that has meaning to you both but isn't soppy or covered in kisses and kittens.

One simple way round this issue is to create personal Valentine's Day cards ahead of February 14.

Instead of desperately trying to create something that epitomises your feelings for your special man, simply pick something that will make him laugh or smile and save the heartfelt romantic gesture for the message inside the card.

The simplest thing can add a personal touch and mark a normal card or present out as something special.

It might just be something that you don't immediately realise until you take a second glance and it is this quality that makes them such amazing gifts.

A present for a loved one doesn't need to be awe-inspiring, it just has to be interesting and most importantly, heartfelt.

In fact some men are a great deal more romantic than the ladies, but that all depends on the man. Not all men would appreciate football-themed personalised Valentine's Day cards, just as not all women appreciate cuddly toy-themed cards.

The idea of personalised cards is that you use them to your advantage and choose a theme or design that is perfectly suited to the person they are intended for, whether that is male or female. When it comes to Valentine's Day, all stereotypes should be left aside and the individual kept in mind at all times.

Anyone's intention on Valentines Day is to make that special someone in their lives smile. It doesn't matter how you do this, whether it is through comedy, romance, or old-fashioned cheesy salutations. Just as long as you do something to create that smile, it doesn't matter what road you take to get there.

There are many themes that are very well suited to male recipients. There are the more obvious football and other sports themes, that can of course be personalised to your precise needs. Then there are other suitable themes such as music, or musical instruments.

There are even some personalised Valentine's Day cards that are a little more risqué, such as French Maid design cards, with the man's name written in the stockings. Such a card is guaranteed to be an ideal gift to make any man smile.

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Closing date: Friday, February 7

THE UK's largest cycling exhibition, The London Bike Show – Driven by SEAT, returns to ExCeL London from 13 – 16 February 2014, bringing along everything you need from the world of cycling.

After a packed 2013 show, it's back, bigger and better than ever before and we've teamed up with The London Bike Show to offer 5 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show. For those looking for their dream bike or beginners wanting to make their first purchase, make your way to the RCUK Cycling Test Track where some of the biggest bike brands will be showcasing their bikes. Once you've found your perfect bike, the experts in the BikeRadar Training Hub will be on hand with tests and consultations designed to help your performance (separate tickets required). The Animal WD-40 Sports Tour returns with the display team showing off their skills on and off their bikes. There will be demos each day mixing incredible skill, control and balance with some spectacular aerial action from athletes including Pro Mountain Biker Blake Samson. For the chance to hear from the greats of the cycling world, head to The Cycling Performance Theatre where experts will be sharing their experiences. Olympic cycling legend Sir Chris Hoy will be taking part in a Q&A in the Theatre as well as showcasing his bike range at the show and the Total Women's Cycling Awards ceremony will take place in the Theatre too. The London Bike Show will once again run alongside The Telegraph Outdoor and Adventure Travel Show and a new show, the Triathlon Plus Show. A ticket for one show allows visitors access into all three shows where there will be lots more to see and do, creating an entertaining, affordable day out for all visitors. For more information, visit: http://www.thelondonbikeshow.co.uk

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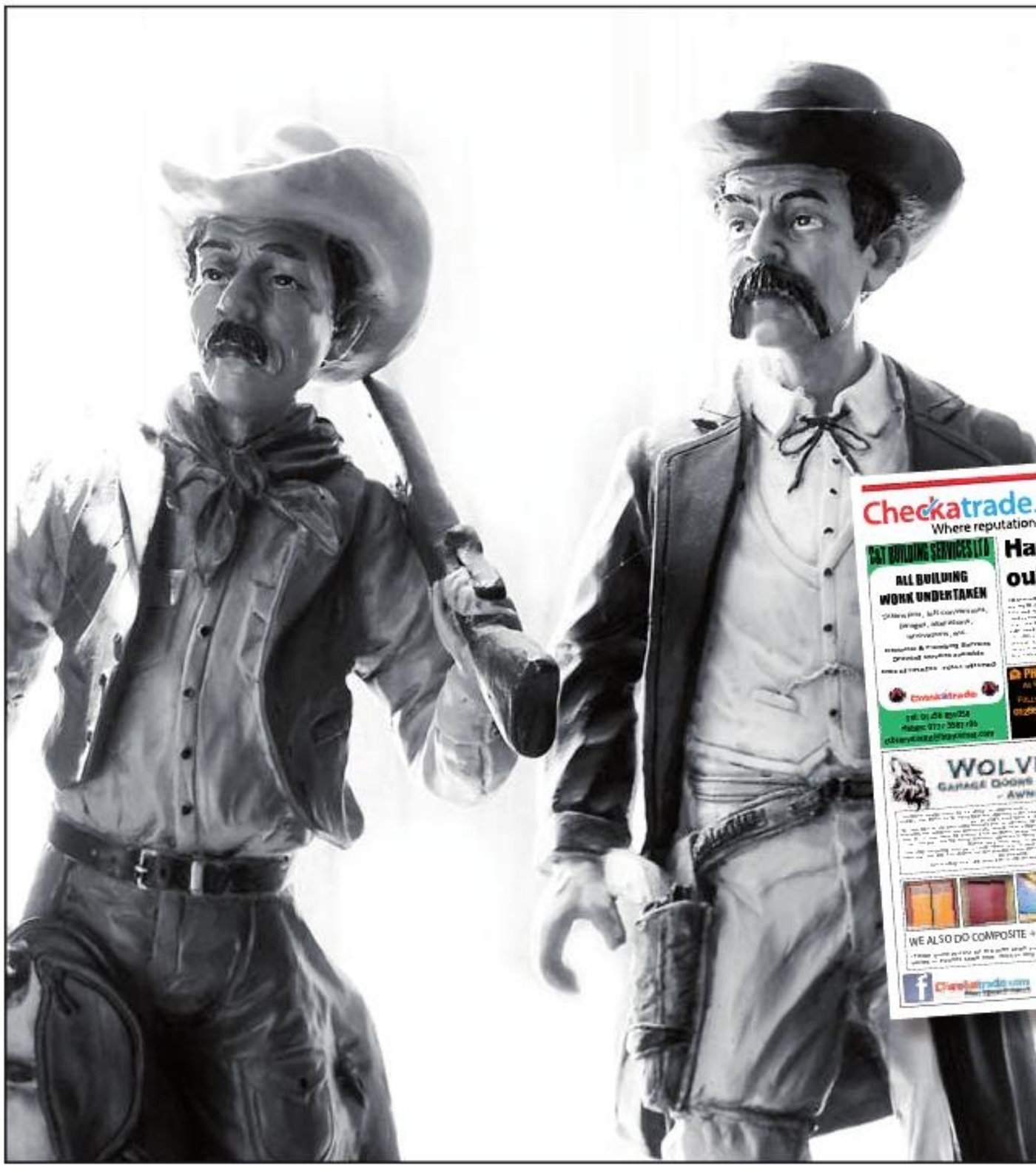

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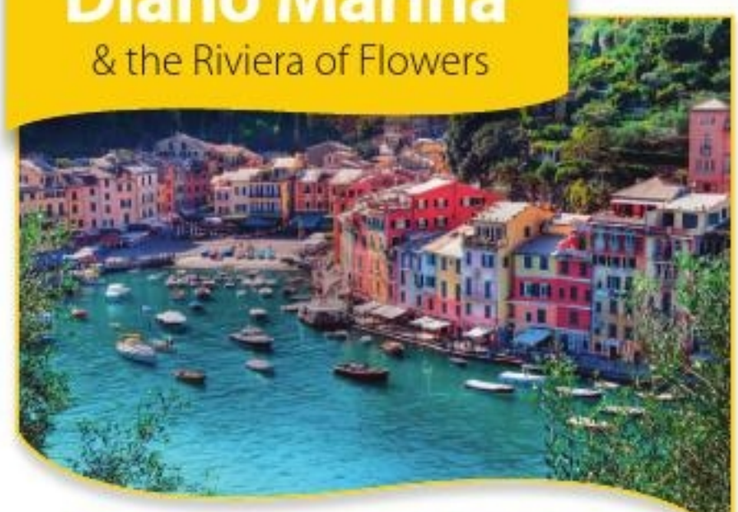


Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

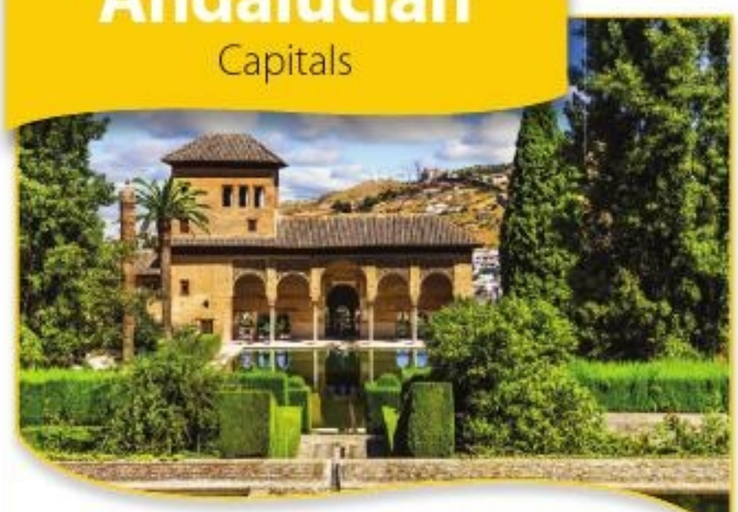
Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name. . .savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Arc en Ciel, Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
  An upgrade to the 4 star Hotel Metropol, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£869pp**

†††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 7/6/14.

Andalucian
Capitals



Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga††††
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

Includes Escorted Excursions — 7 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

††††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 12/6/14.

Malta & Gozo
The idyllic islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

8 days by **AIR**, from **£739pp**

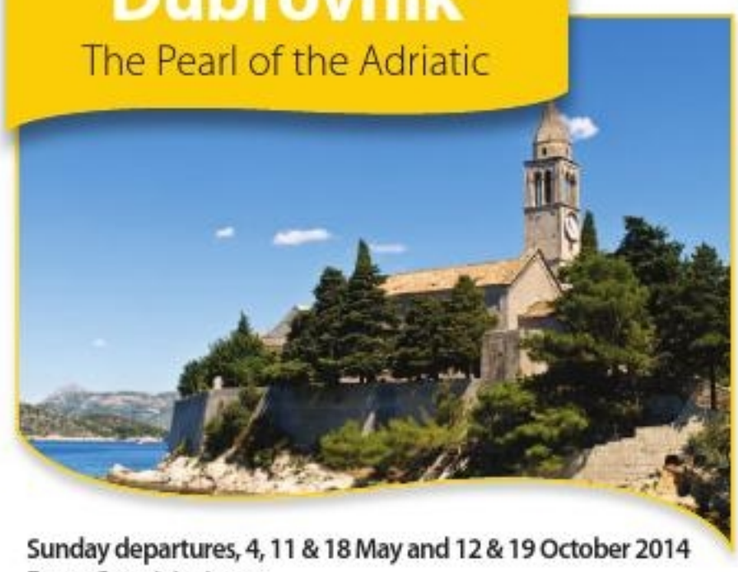
Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel**, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions

†We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14.

Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 & 19 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†††††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Grand Hotel Park**, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

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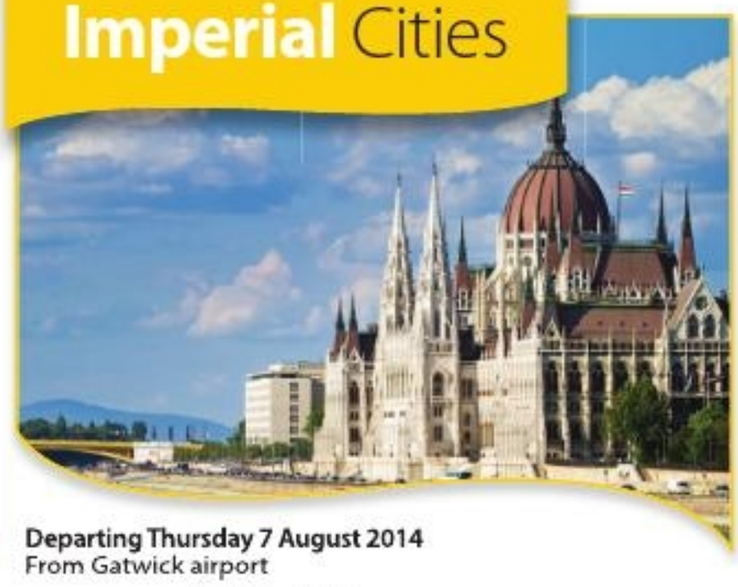
Imperial Cities



Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Gatwick airport

- Return flights from Gatwick airport††††††; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
- Return airport-hotel-airport transfer
- Coach transfer from Prague to Vienna, and transfer by train from Vienna to Budapest
- 3 nights' stay at the 4 star Hotel Century Old Town, Prague with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£999pp**

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Madeira
Winter Sun

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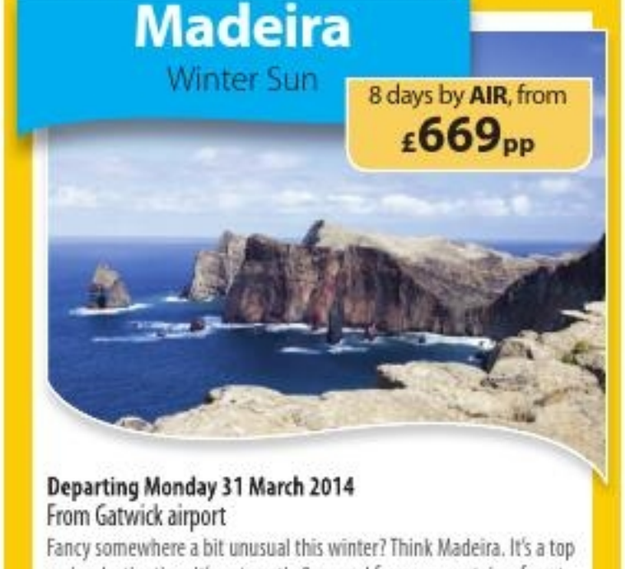

Departing Monday 31 March 2014
From Gatwick airport

Fancy somewhere a bit unusual this winter? Think Madeira. It's a top cruise destination, it's got exotic flora and fauna, mountains, forest, great food and nightlife too, but none of the party crowds. Plus it's got year-round Goldilocks weather, not too hot and not too cold, but just right!

Price includes:
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- Airport taxes and return transfer to the hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Hotel Raga**, Funchal with full board including drinks at dinner.
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New Mazda5 is quirky, but practical, and an engaging drive

All-in-one family solution

WITH its seven-seater versatility, and intelligent packaging, the Mazda5 has been engineered from the ground up to meet the demands of even the most active families.

Like its predecessor, launched in 2005, this second generation model competes with cars such as the Ford Grand C-Max, Citroën C4 Grand Picasso and Peugeot 5008.

Mini-van looks ensure that the Mazda5 stands out in the medium-sized MPV crowd and although it lacks the panache and class of some rivals, the

REVIEW: Mazda5

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

5's interior feels well-made. There's lots of adjustment for the seat and steering wheel, so drivers shouldn't struggle to get comfy either.

Equipment levels are generous and include six airbags, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) with Traction Control System (TCS), two ISOFIX child seat anchor points, reversing camera, climate control, cruise control, TomTom satellite navigation and six-speaker audio system with USB port. This high-spec Venture also benefits from new sporty Black cloth trim with red stitching and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror.

The Mazda5's large twin sliding rear doors – a rare feature in this class - offer impressive access in even the tightest spaces and there's a 130mm foot step and low 439mm step-up into the cabin… perfect for school runs and family outings.

Inside the Mazda5 boasts impressive versatility, too – even though the accommodation is more six-and-a-half, rather than a full seven-seater - as the centre rear seat is only suitable for smaller children. However, the three rows create a wide range of passenger-luggage combinations. The 112-litre loadbay in seven-seat mode can be enlarged to 426-litres in five-seat configuration, while folding all five rear seats flat using Mazda's unique Karakuri seat-folding system creates a ceiling loadbay of 1485-litres (floor to roof).

The Mazda5 range is available with the choice of two engines: a 115ps 1.6-litre turbo diesel and a 2.0-litre petrol delivering 150ps - tested here.

Utilising the firm's 'i-stop' stop/start system allows this petrol engine to return a combined fuel economy of 40.9mpg with CO2 emissions of 159g/km – respectable enough given the size of vehicle, although some rivals are more frugal.

On-paper performance isn't anything to write home about with a 0-62mph time of 11 seconds and a 120mph top speed. But if the driver is willing to work the engine, they're rewarded with decent progress and a sporty soundtrack – which accompanied by impressive agility, good body control, direct steering and slick six-speed manual transmission – makes the Mazda5 surprisingly good fun to drive.

Refinement is perhaps one of the car's weaker areas, with that vocal engine and noticeable road and wind noise even at moderate speeds. However, comfort is good thanks to supportive seats and a pliant and settled ride.

Lots of windows make for good visibility and combined with the car's easy controls, results in the 5 being an absolute doddle to drive and park in towns and congested areas.

Verdict:

From some angles it looks a bit quirky, but the Mazda5 combines great all-round family practicality with a sharp and engaging drive.

Facts at a glance

Price: £19,995
0-62mph 11.0 seconds
Top speed: 120 mph
Power: 150PS @6200 rpm
Torque: 191Nm @ 4500 rpm
Claimed economy: 40.9 mpg (combined)
CO2 159g/km
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• *The new Mazda5*

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Taking care of your motor

FASTFIT Service Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary at Unit One, Moniton Trading Estate in West Ham Lane.

And the independent automotive specialist is proud to be expanding in a bid to give its customers exactly what they want. "Everything your car needs is here under one roof", explained manager Byron Lewis who, like his team of experts, has spent a lifetime in the automotive industry.

He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's and entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes. we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

Fastfit Service Centre also stocks a rang of budget or performance tyres and it can also custom build stainless steel exhaust systems.

"Come and give us a try. You won't be disappointed," concluded Byron.

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What our customers think

• My car had been taken to three different repair centres which was suffering from low power none of them diagnosed the problem. I took it to these guys for a remap and full exhaust in the hopes it would fix it. It was better but Byron still thought it wasn't right so spent another couple of hours diagnosing it! He didn't charge me extra and even finished after they should of closed. You just don't get that kind of service these days. Amazing!
Cheers,
Clive Baldwin

• Great service from the whole of the Fast Fit team. They know what they are talking about and are happy to help with any query.
I wanted something activated on my car that was not activated at the factory. A dealer wanted upwards of £100 to do the job, I contacted Fast Fit and they have the same Dealer Software. Done the job quick and for a third of the price!
These guys definitely know what they're talking about and I would recommend them to anyone!
Chris H

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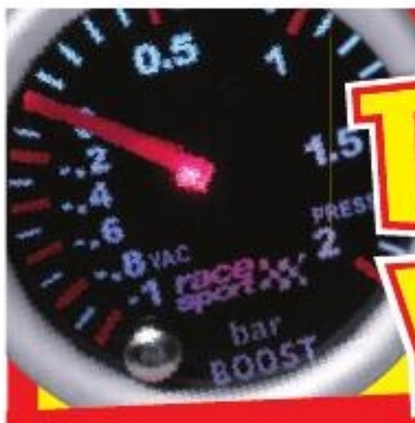

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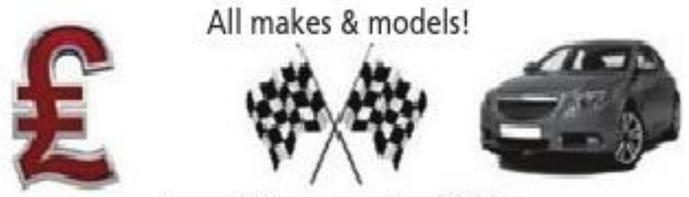

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Applicant(s): Mrs Yildiz Kaya

Address of Premises: Street Trader, Castons Yard Car Park, Basingstoke. Grid ref: 31751, 5180

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The postal address of the Licensing Authority where the register is kept and the application may be inspected is: Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH. Any person wishing to make representations on this matter shall give notice, in writing, stating the precise nature of such representations to the Head of Governance, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AH within 28 days of the publication date of this notice given above. Further details on how to make a valid representations is on the Licensing Authorities website www.basingstoke.gov.uk or from the Licensing Team on 01256 844844. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

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MARIE slim attractive fun brunette, looking for good times with exciting broadminded male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409707**

CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights in/out and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409417**

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SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408879**

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SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409251**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409107**

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409097**

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408293**

CAROL 35yr old self employed nurse, looking for similar lonely male who likes travel, holidays, theatre and most important tlc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409085**

VICTORIA 38 fun loving and single looking for fun times with male, preferably Asian. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408729**

LIZ attractive blonde blue eyed female with no children/ties, loves country living, animals, seeks male companion for holidays, cosy nights and more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408629**

SUSAN 24yr single mum of two, likes nights in/out, walking, swimming, running, WLTM tall, loyal easy going male to end lonely nights and brighten days. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408287**

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTM loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408625**

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KATIE slim racy female, likes cars, horses, dogs looking for tall experienced male who knows how to make me happy and please me. Daytime meets preferable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407045**

LIZ 24 attractive blonde, green eyes, size 14, likes golf, pubs, comedy, holidays, WLTM professional well built male for romance, tlc and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408303**

HI I am Sally a single 28yr old female, pretty, size 8-10 with a GSOH and fun to be with looking for similar lonely male for mutual companionship, dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407951**

man seeking

BERNARD 63, brown hair/eyes, seeking lady for soul mate, romance and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409883**

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Bison struggling for form after more mixed fortunes

Basingstoke scrapping to avoid drop

BASINGSTOKE RFC lost their second game in succession on Saturday, with a 14-10 defeat at home to Guernsey with the game very much split into two halves.

The opening half was all about Guernsey and it took just seven minutes for the visitors to get on the scoresheet, as a Nick Merrien try was subsequently converted by Sam Whitehead.

They added a second as Shane Taylor broke through the 'Stoke defence to set up Sam Stables for the try, with Whitehead again converting.

At the break, Guernsey were 14-0 ahead, after 'Stoke had done very little in the form of attack in the first 40 minutes.

But Basingstoke were on the ascendancy in the second half as Chris Kiernan set up a penalty attempt by Ryan Trevaskis, although he kicked it wide.

They were able to open their scoring soon after as Tim Richards went over for an unconverted try.

With nine minutes to go Job Kochanowski added another try for the hosts, although the conversion was again missed.

'Stoke pushed for what would have been a winning try in the final moments of the match, but the visitors' defence held on to keep the score at 14-10.

Basingstoke are now just one place and six points above the relegation zone in the National League 3 London and South East standings, with 33 points from 17 games.

• Joe Greener and Tomas Karpov were on the scoresheet for Bison's win against Sheffield Steeldogs (Pictures by Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

A CLOSE win against Sheffield Steeldogs was followed up with a disappointing loss to Peterborough Phantoms for Basingstoke Bison in their two matches over the weekend.

Saturday's home game against the Steeldogs ended in a 6-5 win for the Bison, although the hosts had been 4-0 ahead after the first period.

It took Tomas Karpov just 32 seconds to open the scoring, and was quickly followed by Ciaran Long's powerplay shot three minutes later.

Karpov grabbed another soon afterwards, before Joe Greener made it four as he finished off a passing play involving Long and player-coach Doug Sheppard.

But the Steeldogs didn't give up, and opened their account at 32:31 through Lubomir Korhon, with Ashley Calvert netting the visitors' second just before the end of the second period.

And Andrew Hirst got the Steeldogs to within one goal at 45:30, assisted by Greg Chambers.

Greener got Bison back on the scoresheet as he scored from a tight angle, and Joe Rand made it 6-3 seconds later.

Edgars Bebris and Korhon picked up a goal in the final 10 minutes to make for a tense ending, but Bison held on to take the win.

However Sunday's match away to basement side Phantoms ended in a 5-2 loss for Bison, who this time found themselves facing a 4-0 deficit.

Marc Levers got the only goal of the opening period for the Phantoms, before doubling the advantage shortly after the break.

Luke Ferrara and Marcel Petran added one each in the second period to put the Phantoms four ahead, before Long was able to pull one back for Bison.

Greener reduced the gap further, and Bison pulled netminder Dean Skinns forward in an effort to get back into the contest, but to no avail.

A Petran penalty late in the game gave the Phantom's their fifth for a comfortable win.

It means that Bison stay second in the English Ice Hockey Premier League (EPL) standings with 54 points, two behind leaders Manchester Phoenix.

Bison were playing Guildford Flames at home in the semi-final of the EPL Cup as the Observer went to press.

Sport Bites

Falling foul

WHITCHURCH United, Tadley Calleva and Hartley Wintney's matches were all affected by the weather over the past week, with none of their scheduled matches going ahead.

The Jam Boys were meant to host Bemerton Heath Harlequins and Tadley's home match against Team Solent were called off on Saturday.

Hartley Wintney's game on Tuesday at home to Chessington and Hook United was also postponed.

As it stands, Whitchurch remain sixth in the Wessex Premier Division, with 46 points from 25 games.

Calleva are eighth in the Wessex First Division, while Wintney are 14th in the Combined Counties Premier.

All three will hope to be back in action on Saturday, as Whitchurch travel to Sholing, Tadley are away to Cowes Sports, and Wintney host Raynes Park Vale.

Twenty-Ten win

A COMFORTABLE 7-3 win means Basingstoke Twenty-Ten FC are into the quarter-finals of the North Hants Junior Cup, after they defeated Andover Dynamos on Saturday.

Goals from Joe Hill, Carl Pearson and a Jack Clarke hat-trick meant that Twenty-Ten were already 5-1 ahead at half-time.

Frank Spacagna and Joe Osborne added two more after the break to put the hosts into the next round, where they will play Bengal Brasserie.

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Inside: Bison struggling for form after more mixed fortunes | Basingstoke scrapping to avoid drop | Twenty-Ten win

CONDITIONS MADE IT TOUGH - BOSS

Dragons defeated by Sutton as wind and rain hit Camrose

BASINGSTOKE could not make it three wins from three in all competitions on Saturday as they were edged out by a resilient Sutton United at the Camrose.

By James Booker
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Jamie Taylor lashed home from 12 yards after a quarter of an hour, a strike which proved to be the difference between the two sides.

The weather conditions made playing extremely difficult, with fierce winds and torrential rain hampering both sides.

Indeed, Bristow said that, with the wind behind them, his side struggled to get any momentum going.

"At one point, for about 20 minutes, the conditions were some of the worst I've ever seen at a football match," said the Dragons boss.

"We actually struggled with the wind behind us – we kept over-hitting our passes – and we played much better with the wind in our faces.

"They only had about three or four shots on goal, whereas we had five or six, and their goalkeeper made some fantastic saves.

"One save was as good a save as I've seen on this football ground."

And the Dragons had left-back Adam Green dismissed late on for a second bookable offence to rub salt in the wounds.

Green was cautioned for a late challenge on Kane Haysman 15 minutes from time, before tugging back Jamie Slabber 10 minutes later for his second yellow.

Bristow felt the decision to send off his defender was "harsh".

"The second offence – he's pulled him back so it was a yellow, but I think the first one was harsh," he said.

"Given the conditions, I think the referee could have just had a word in his ear and that would have been enough."

Basingstoke slipped to 11th in the Skrill South after the defeat, but the tight nature of the league means they remain just three points off the play-offs.

Sutton, meanwhile, strengthened their grip on fourth place.

Bristow's men take on fellow mid-table outfit Concord Rangers at the Camrose on Saturday as they look to get back to winning ways.

The Canvey Island side are one point and one place behind Basingstoke, with one game in hand.

Basingstoke Town	0
Sutton Utd	1

· Matt Partridge and Nathan Smart in action for Basingstoke against Sutton (Picture by Les Chase)

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Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,116 including customer saving of £2,623 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £15,739 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport and Swift Sport SZ-R. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Swift specifications and prices refer to the 2013 facelift model. Model shown: Splash SZ4 (metallic paint available at £415). Model shown: Swift SZ4 5dr (metallic paint available at £430).

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